Checking for Leaks:

Many households have water leaks and do not even know it. Typically, most leaks are found at the toilet tank. Leaks are costly, and consumers can end up paying a great deal for wasted water. Here are some useful tips to determine if you have a leak in your home:

To check the internal plumbing system in your house:

1.) Read your water meter before you go to bed or leave for work in the morning, when no one will be using the water in your house for several hours.

2.) Read the meter again in the morning or when you get home from work.

3.) The two readings should be about the same.

4.) If they are not, you probably have a leak.

To check for leaks in a toilet:

1.) Test the flapper plug. Carefully remove the lid from the toilet tank. Mark the water level in the tank with a pencil. Shut off the water supply to the toilet. If the water remains on the mark you made for at least 10 minutes, the flapper plug is not leaking. If the water level does drop below the mark, it is leaking and should be replaced.

2.) Check the overflow tube. The water level in the tank should be at least 1 inch below the top of the overflow tube. If the water level is at the top of the overflow tube, this could be where a leak is occurring ring. The float that controls the water level in the tank should be adjusted so that the water level in the tank is at least 1 inch below the top of the tube.

3.) Most toilet tank leaks result from worn parts or misalignment of a part of the flushing mechanism. If you are an experienced "do-it- yourselfer," you can probably handle the repair. If you don't feel comfortable repairing it, call a plumber.

Water leaks are costly and an unnecessary waste of water. A simple investigation could save you money and conserve water!

For more information, call the Cambridge Water Department at 349-4770